

VVEC Celebrates Lineman Appreciation Day

Each morning, as linemen leave their families to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure, they undertake a physically demanding job in order that co-op members can enjoy the benefits of electricity. Along with 38 of their fellow linemen, Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative veteran linemen Larry Sylvester and Jeff Jones put their lives on the line daily as they work high above the ground with deadly voltages. They sometimes work long hours in extreme conditions—in the aftermath of ice storms, tornadoes and even hurricanes. But they do so because they take pride in doing a job that few others can do, as they serve electric cooperative members.

Sylvester began working at VVEC in 1982, right out of high school.

“I was hauling hay for the

principal at Collinsville Elementary School. He knew a supervisor at the co-op and asked me if I wanted a job at the co-op,” Sylvester says. “I filled out an application, shook a couple hands, and a week later I had a job.”

Thirty-four years later, Sylvester is grateful for the life that working on the lines has provided him. He enjoys serving members and tries to make their experience as positive as possible.

“I owe everything I have to VVEC,” he says.

For Sylvester, one of the most memorable moments on the job happened after the 2007 ice storm. The crew had been working around-the-clock for more than two weeks to restore power.

“We took a break to eat in Owasso and when we walked into the restaurant, everyone began to applaud. Someone

bought our supper too,” Sylvester says. “It was a little embarrassing because we were just doing what we do, but it was really nice to be appreciated.”

Jones began working at the co-op in 2001. In his opinion, it’s one of the best places to work in Collinsville and he is grateful for the security it provides to him and his family. Jones enjoys being able to work outside, fix things and solve problems.

“I’ll never leave until they make me,” he says with a laugh.

Jones enjoys the day-to-day challenges that come with the job, as well as interacting with co-op members. However, one experience that sticks out among his 15 years of service happened in 2005. He was part of a Mutual Aid crew that spent 23 days in New Orleans, La., after Hurricane

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VVEC Linemen. Photo by Randy Riddle

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Office hours
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
Monday through Friday

Power Circuit Editor
Laura Araujo

Winter Residential Rates

October through March usage,
November through April billing

Customer Charge \$25.00

Energy Charge

1st 1,000 kWh \$0.0738/kWh

Over 1,000 kWh \$0.0678/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 55.993 mills per kWh.

In addition, a gross receipts tax of 2 percent of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes if applicable.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Donation Supports Youth Development

District 7 Trustee Charles Huerter presented a \$400 donation to the Washington County Junior Livestock Show on behalf of VVEC. The livestock show took place March 2-5, 2016, at the county fairgrounds in Dewey, Okla.

“It’s a really big deal for the 4-H and FFA kids,” Huerter said. “It helps them to develop responsibility as they care for and show their animals.”

The donation was used to sup-

port the premium sale. VVEC’s donation, along with contributions from two other community organizations, went to Hayden Moses, son of Paul and Tricia Moses who are VVEC members living in Ochelata, Okla. Moses took home the prize for his breed champion steer.

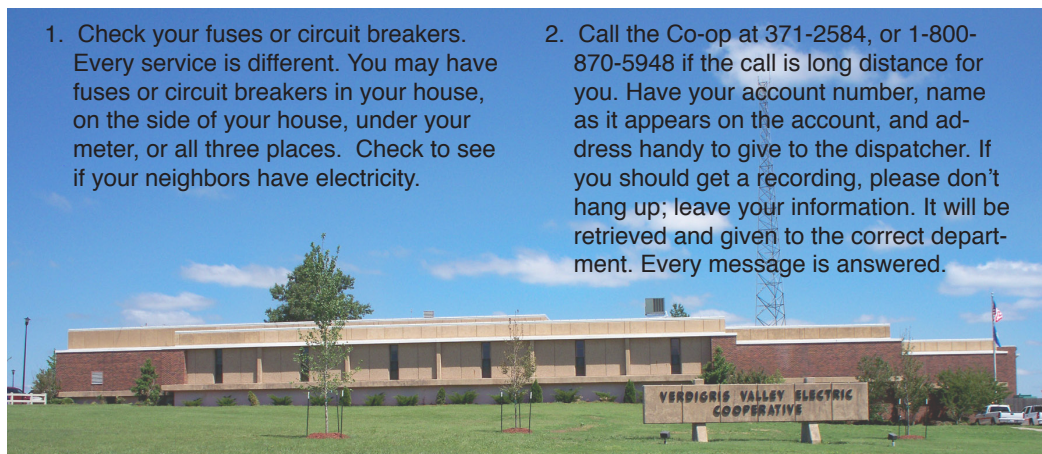
“We appreciate the opportunity to encourage young people in their education and to be part of this community effort,” Huerter said.

Has Your Status Changed?

Have you recently tied the knot, gotten divorced or been widowed? If so, please call us at 918-371-2584 so one of our customer service representatives can update your information. This will help us maintain accurate data for your capital credit account and ensure it’s easy for you to conduct business with us.

What to do if Your Power Goes Off

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers. Every service is different. You may have fuses or circuit breakers in your house, on the side of your house, under your meter, or all three places. Check to see if your neighbors have electricity.
2. Call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948 if the call is long distance for you. Have your account number, name as it appears on the account, and address handy to give to the dispatcher. If you should get a recording, please don’t hang up; leave your information. It will be retrieved and given to the correct department. Every message is answered.



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Katrina. Jones says the people were very appreciative and had a hard time believing they had come all the way from Oklahoma to help.

“We would work all day. After dark, we’d start seeing the lights come on,” he says. “All the sudden a cheer would go up. That was unforgettable.”

On April 11, 2016, electric cooperatives across the U.S. honor the hard-working men and women, like Sylvester and Jones, who have dedicated their lives to keeping the lights

on. VVEC invites members to take the opportunity to thank a lineman for the work they do. Use #ThankaLineman on social media posts to show your support for the men and women who light our lives.

“Our linemen work all hours of the day, often in hazardous conditions far from their families, going above and beyond to restore power to their communities,” VVEC General Manager Alice Houston says. “They truly deserve this special day of recognition.”

Grant Applications Due April 29



Adopt-a-School



Rural Fire Department

Applications are available at www.vvec.com on the Community Programs tab

New Rates Take Effect May 1st

<p>Residential</p> <p>Summer (April - September) Customer Charge: \$30.00/month Energy Charge: First 2000 kWh \$.08272 per kWh Over 2000 kWh \$.08782 per kWh</p> <p>Winter (October - March) Customer Charge: \$30.00/month Energy Charge: \$.07772 per kWh</p>	<p>Urban Residential</p> <p>Summer (April - September) Customer Charge: \$25.20/month Energy Charge: First 2000 kWh \$.07533 per kWh Over 2000 kWh \$.08043 per kWh</p> <p>Winter (October - March) Customer Charge: \$25.20/month Energy Charge: \$.07033 per kWh</p>	<p>Large General</p> <p>Customer Charge: \$60.00/month Demand Charge: \$6.57 per kWh Energy Charge: First 150 kWh/kW of Billing Demand \$.07800 Over 150 kWh/kW of Billing Demand \$.04800</p>
<p>Small Single-Phase General</p> <p>Customer Charge: \$30.00/month Energy Charge: \$.08710 per kWh</p>	<p>Small Three-Phase General</p> <p>Customer Charge: \$40.40/month Energy Charge: \$.09492 per kWh</p>	<p>Security Lighting</p> <p>\$8.30 each 40-Watt LED 175-Watt Mercury Vapor Lamp 100-Watt High Pressure Sodium</p>

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 59.87 mills per kWh.

Prepare Now for Storm Season

By Randy Riddle

Storm season is here again. We all know the damage thunderstorms can do, especially the severe ones. It doesn't matter what time of the day or day of the week; if storms hit, the crews at VVEC are ready to respond.

The winds and lightning that come along with severe thunderstorms can cause power outages. Lightning can damage equipment and can cause trees or tree limbs to blow onto lines. Even members' property like swing sets, trampolines and portable buildings can be blown into power poles and lines. Any number of items can cause a line to short out and trip a breaker or blow a fuse.

When storms hit our service area we try to restore outages in the order they are reported. However, when large outages begin to come into our system, we must restore those first, before we restore the smaller outages. Members with medical alerts need to have those registered with us, but in most cases we still have to restore outages in our normal order. When we look at outages on our OMS system we can see the medical alerts symbols. However, almost all of the lines in our system have someone with a medical alert listed. This means our members should prepare to withstand a several-hour power outage.

The past couple of years we have been promoting the SmartHub® app for your iPhone or Android smart phone and our website to report power outages. It is by far the easiest way to report outages. It is also the best way to gain the peace-of-mind that we know about your outage and it is being worked on, or in line to be repaired. When a feeder goes out or a severe storm blows through, thousands of members can be impacted causing the 46 telephone lines coming into our to office fill up quickly. Signing up and using SmartHub can help your co-op to better serve you during outages.

RECIPE

Lemon Wrinkles

Yields 2 dozen cookies

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease baking sheets with non-stick cooking spray. In a large bowl, cream the butter

and sugar until light and fluffy. Whip in the vanilla, egg, lemon zest and juice. Slowly stir in all the dry ingredients, except the powdered sugar. Pour the powdered sugar onto a large plate. Roll a heaping teaspoon of dough into a ball and roll in the powdered sugar. Place on the baking sheet and repeat with the remaining dough. Bake for 9-11 minutes or until the bottoms begin to barely brown



Lemon Wrinkles. Photo by Laura Araujo

and cookies have a matte finish (not melty or shiny). Remove from the oven and cool 3 minutes before transferring them to cooling racks.